

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 /028 W  
-----048642 101620Z /45

P 101348Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4736  
SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O.11652: NA  
TAGS: OREP, UY (MANN/SCHLUNDT)  
SUBJ: STAFFDEL MANN/SCHLUNDT MEETING WITH SENIOR MILITARY  
OFFICERS.

REF: MONTEVIDEO 4395

1. SUMMARY. STAFFDEL MANN/SCHLUNDT, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITED THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS ON SEPTEMBER 6 TO MEET WITH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS REPRESENTING VARIOUS POSITIONS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE SERVICES. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO GIVE THE OFFICERS SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS AND THE PEOPLE INVOLVED SO THEY WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE CONGRESS IN PRESENTING URUGUAY'S POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ISSUES. THE URUGUAYANS LISTENED POLITELY AND THEN READ FROM A PREPARED DOCUMENT PRESENTING THE NOW FAMILIAR OFFICIAL LINE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., ON WHICH THE STAFFDEL COMMENTED. ALTHOUGH THE OFFICERS WERE VERY RESERVED AND ALL EXCEPT ONE APPARENT SPOKESMAN WERE SILENT THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, WE BELIEVE THEY DID GAIN SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS AND SOME APPRECIATION THAT CONGRESS IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT LATIN AMERICA AND URUGUAY. END SUMMARY.

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2. JANEAN MANN AND VIRGINIA SCHLUNDT, STAFF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE-HIRC ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHARGE, ARMA/ACTING DATT, AND AIRA, MET WITH 10 COLONEL-LEVEL OFFICERS. ARMY COLONELS WERE A MEMBER OF THE JOINT STAFF, AN AIDE TO ARMY CINC, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CINC'S PERSONAL STAFF, AND AN OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE (THE TRANSLATOR). THE THREE NAVY CAPTAINS WERE THE

CHIEF OF THE NAVY STAFF AND TWO FROM THE JOINT STAFF. THE THREE AIR FORCE COLONELS WERE THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR FORCE COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF FLYING SAFETY. ALL OF THE URUGUAYANS PRESENT UNDERSTOOD ENGLISH IN VARYING DEGREES.

3. THE MEETING LASTED APPROXIMATELY 75 MINUTES, WITH THE TWO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS ALTERNATING IN GIVING A VERY DETAILED EXPLANATION OF HOW THE CONGRESS FUNCTIONS AND HOW A

PIECE OF LEGISLATION BECOMES LAW. THE TWO STAFFERS ALSO EXPLAINED AT WHAT POINTS AND HOW PRESSURES ARE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON A PIECE OF LEGISLATION AND HOW THE INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN CAN INFLUENCE PROPOSED LEGISLATION. AFTER THIS DETAILED EXPLANATION THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO QUESTIONS BY THE URUGUAYANS.

4. THE "QUESTION" PERIOD TOOK THE FORM OF A FORMAL PREPARED STATEMENT BY A NAVAL CAPTAIN WHICH POSED THE FOLLOWING RHETORICAL QUESTIONS. WHERE DID THE U.S. CONGRESS RECEIVE ITS AUTHORITY TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A COUNTRY WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS? WHY HAS THE U.S. PLACED SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES WHEN HUMAN RIGHTS ALSO INCLUDE RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT, FOOD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, GENERAL WELL-BEING, AMONG OTHERS, ALL OF WHICH ARE BEING PROVIDED BY THE PRESENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATISTICS ON ILLITERACY AND MALNUTRITION IN LATIN AMERICA WERE CITED AS WELL AS AN ENUMERATION OF MANY OF THE OFTEN-HEARD ARGUMENTS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE U.S. SUPPORT FOR URUGUAY. THE URUGUAYAN OFFICER ALSO STRESSED THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE WAS NO U.S. CONCERN WHEN INNOCENT VICTIMS AND GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE KILLED BY TUPAMARO TERRORISTS AND THAT URUGUAY DID NOT RECEIVE U.S. AID IN TIME TO ASSIST IT IN NEUTRALIZING THE TUPAMARO THREAT. THE URUGUAYAN OFFICER ENDED HIS PRESENTATION WITH THE STATEMENT THAT: "WE RESPECT THE RIGHT OF THE U.S. TO ACT AS A SOVEREIGN POWER BUT IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE CONGRESS ACTED WITHOUT BEING PROPERLY INFORMED ABOUT URUGUAY."

5. AT VARIOUS POINTS DURING HE URUGUAYAN PRESENTATION AND SUBSEQUENT TO TI THE CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS PROVIDED APPROPRIATE COMMENTS. THE TWO STAFFERS EXPLAINED THAT AS A RESULT OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM THE CONGRESS BEGAN TO DEVEOLP A NEW INTEREST IN FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND THIS NEW INTEREST INCLUDED THE DESIRE TO LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT LATIN AMERICA. EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, CONGRESS WAS TRYING TO EXERCISE MORE CONTROL OVER THIS POLICY IN AN ATTEMPT TO ES-

TABLISH A POLICY WHICH WAS MORE HONEST AND REALISTIC AND ONE WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. WHILE NOT APOLOGIZING FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS, THE TWO STAFFERS INDICATED THAT CONGRESS KNOWS IT IS NOT PERFECT AND MANY TIMES POLICIES HAVE TO BE REVIEWED WITH AN EYE FOR CHANGE DUE TO PREVIOUS MISINTERPRETATION OF FACTS; STRESSING, HOWEVER, THAT CONGRESS WILL ACT ON THE FACTS WHICH IT HAS AT HAND ACCORDING TO THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM AS THE CONGRESS INTERPRETS THE SITUATION. STRESSED ALSO WAS THE FACT THAT THE PRESS PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE -- ALMOST A FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT -- IN THE U.S. PROCESS. THE URUGUAYANS WERE TOLD THAT AS A RESULT

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OF THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE THE U.S. DECIDED IT COULD NOT BE THE POLICEMEN FOR THE WORLD AND THIS HAD INTRODUCED A NEW REALISM INTO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. THE STAFFERS AGREED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS MUCH BROADER THAN INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES POINTING OUT THAT THE CONGRESS HAD DIRECTED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TOWARD DEVELOPMENT IN HOUSING, EDUCATION, ETC. IN LATIN AMERICA. THE CONGRESS HAD ALSO APPROPRIATED MILLIONS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR URUGUAY OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, INCLUDING DURING THE TUPAMARO PERIOD. HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT THEIR TAX DOLLARS SPENT IN SUPPORT OF REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. THE USSR WAS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC'S DESIRES AS THE USSR/BLOC COUNTRIES ARE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING ECONOMIC AID, TRADE BENEFITS, ETC. BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

6 TOWARD THE END OF THE DISCUSSIONS, THE TWO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS INVITED ALL THOSE PRESENT TO VISIT THE CONGRESS

TO MEET WITH INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN. THEY BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WAS NECESSARY AND PERSONAL VISITS TO A COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY TO A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN COUNTRY SUCH AS URUGUAY, WERE IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPING INFORMATION UPON WHICH TO ACT.

7. COMMENT: THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY OFFICERS WERE EXCEPTIONALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITE DURING THE MEETING, ALMOST TO THE POINT OF BEING RESERVED. FOR THE MOST PART, THEY REMAINED EXPRESSIONLESS, SUGGESTING THAT THEY WERE PRESENT BECAUSE THEY WERE ORDERED TO ATTEND -- MAYBE ONLY WITH THE PURPOSE OF LISTENING. IN ANY EVENT, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS "STRANGE." NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THE OFFICERS DID GAIN FROM THE MEETING SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS AND SOME APPRECIATION THAT THE CONGRESS IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT LATIN AMERICA AND URUGUAY. DURING A BRIEF MILLING-AROUND PERIOD AFTER THE MEETING ONE OF THE OFFICERS COMMENTED THAT HE COULD SEE THAT URUGUAY HAD DONE LITTLE TO DEFEND ITSELF IN WASHINGTON.

8. THIS IS A JOINT STATE DOD MESSAGE WHICH HAS BEEN CLEARED IN DRAFT WITH STAFFDEL.  
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## Message Attributes

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